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United States Department of Agriculture,

FOREST SERVICE—Circular 21 (Fifth Revision).

GIFFORD PINCHOT, Forester.

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS, LUMBERMEN, AND OTHER OWNERS OF FOREST LANDS.

WHY THE FOREST SERVICE OFFERS ASSISTANCE.

The forest lands of the United States are owned in three separate ways: First, by the Government of the United States, to which belongs the National Forests; second, by some of the States; and third, by private owners—individuals, companies, or institutions. The private forest lands exceed in area those of the States and the Federal Government combined, and their preservation in a condition to produce timber and to conserve the water supply is of vast importance to the nation. The treatment which they usually receive tends to destroy their value rather than to sustain or increase it. The reason is evident. Like other private property, these lands are held for the returns they yield; and the owners have only begun to understand that it pays better, as a rule, to protect a forest, in harvesting the timber crop, than to destroy it. The Forest Service, therefore, offers practical assistance to private owners in devising definite plans for the proper care and management of their forest lands, in order that the lands may be kept permanently and increasingly productive.

The lands are mainly of two kinds—small holdings, for the most part farmers' woodlots, and large timber tracts.

NEED FOR COOPERATION.

WOODLOTS.

Throughout a very large portion of the United States nearly every farm has a certain part of its area under wood, either planted, as in regions otherwise treeless, or of natural growth. The value of this wooded portion, besides affording protection from the wind, is chiefly for fuel, fencing, and railroad ties, with some building material and the wood needed for special uses about the farm. Without the

woodlot the farm very often would be an unprofitable investment, because the farmer could not afford to buy the wood which now costs him very little except the labor of cutting and moving it. But in the majority of cases this part of the farm is far less useful than it might easily be made. This is true because the farmer does not study its productive capacity as he does that of his fields and pastures, and hence does not make it yield as fully as he might, with little or no additional labor, if he went about it in the right way.

TIMBERLAND.

Large bodies of forest land, in almost every wooded portion of this country, have come into the hands of private owners and are held for their value as sources of timber. Under the usual methods of lumbering, the harvesting of the present crop of timber on these private lands is commonly accompanied by the destruction of the trees now too small to be profitably cut. The small trees, if left unharmed, would form the basis of a future crop, often of more value than the first. It also frequently happens that the first cutting removes from the forest the more valuable species only, so that the future growth is not nearly so valuable as it would be if the species of less value were taken and if selected trees of the best varieties were left to provide seed for a future stand. The trained foresters of the Forest Service give advice as to what trees should be cut and what left, and also tell how the cutting can best be carried on to protect the trees which it would not now be advisable to cut. They are frequently able to suggest markets for the less desirable kinds and to make suggestions for preventing waste in large tops, high stumps, and partly defective trees.

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE.

Fire so frequently follows the lumberman, in spite of his precautions, that in many places it is thought to be inevitable. Only too often, also, fire burns over the forests before they are cut, killing trees and reducing the value of the timber when cut. In every region of the United States adequate protection against fires is urgently needed. Often a well-planned and well-executed system of fire protection is all that is required to enable a cut-over area to renew itself or to enable a forest already growing to increase greatly in value in a few years. The Forest Service is prepared to devise definite, practical plans than will aid in protecting private holdings from fire.

NATURE OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN.

The assistance rendered is advisory, by means of correspondence or publications, or is embodied in a report based on a personal examination of the tract. If desired, the report is a practical working plan,

in which details are given for proper care and management. Such a working plan includes a classification of forest land, an estimate of the merchantable timber, and a study of the young growth which is a basis for a second crop; it offers recommendations for lumbering and for the future care of the forest, and usually includes a forest map. The Forest Service does not, however, put the plan into execution except in special cases.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE OWNERS.

WOODLOTS.

The examination of woodlots is made by regions in which the headquarters of the forest officers making the examinations are established at central points. The Forest Service pays the salary and the traveling expenses of the agent to the region; the owner provides only for his traveling expenses from headquarters or from a point en route to and from the tract and for his maintenance while making the examination.

TIMBERLANDS.

(*a*) In making preliminary examinations of large tracts the Forest Service pays the salary of the agent, while the owner pays his traveling and living expenses from and to Washington, if a special trip is necessary, or if there is an officer in the region, from the nearest point on his route and return.

(*b*) If, as a result of the preliminary examination, the owner decides to have a working plan made, he pays the total expenses of making the plan, including salaries. Where, however, the preparation of the plan will be of unusual educational value, or if no working plans have been made in the region in question, the Forest Service may share a portion of the expenses.

The recommendations of the examining officer or the working plan need not be put into execution unless satisfactory; but when a plan has been accepted the owner will be expected to enter upon its execution, and to give such reports upon the work as the Service may request of him. If deemed advisable by the Service, and if desired by the owner, a personal inspection of the work carried out under the provisions of the report submitted to him will be made.

Tracts of any size, from 5 acres up, will be considered, and applications will be taken up at the earliest convenience of the Service. No application will be considered which contemplates the care of trees planted for decorative purposes, or any phase of the work which properly belongs to landscape gardening, since such work is entirely out of the province of the Forest Service.

In all States where a trained forester is employed the Service will cooperate with him whenever possible.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

The specific agreement under which the Department of Agriculture conducts cooperative work in forest management is as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C., ..., 19...

The Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and ...., of ....., county of ...., State of .....; mutually agree as follows:

1. The Forest Service, in pursuance of investigations in forestry, and in order to disseminate a knowledge of improved ways of handling forest lands, shall, after personal study on the ground by its agent or agents, prepare a plan for harvesting the forest crop and reproducing the forest on the land of the said ...., situated and described as follows: ..... acres, more or less, of ..... in the town of ....., county of ....., State of .....

2. As soon as possible after the termination of said study the Forest Service shall report to the said ..... the results obtained and its recommendations.

3. The said ..... shall pay the sum of ..... dollars (see clause 6), the estimated cost of said study, which shall be used as follows: ....

4. After the completion of the said plan and upon its acceptance by and a written request from the said ....., the Forest Service shall supervise the execution thereof, so far as may be necessary, at a cost to said owner to be definitely agreed upon before such supervision is undertaken.

5. The said ..... shall, when so requested by the Forest Service, make reports upon the progress and results of forest management under this agreement, and the Forest Service shall have the right to publish and distribute the said plan and its results.

6. All machines, implements, and materials purchased with funds furnished by the said ..... and not consumed, together with all unexpended cooperative funds contributed by him, shall be turned over to him when no longer needed in cooperative work. All machines, implements, and materials furnished by the Forest Service and all specimens, samples, models, plans, drawings, negatives, and notes or manuscripts which have resulted from the cooperative work, and which may be desired by the Forest Service for record or publication, shall be retained by said Service.

7. This agreement may be dissolved by either party upon ten days' notice given to the other in writing.

8. Neither the Forest Service nor its agents shall share in any profit which might arise from the said plan.

9. No Member of or Delegate to Congress is or shall be admitted to any share, part, or interest in this agreement or to any benefit to arise therefrom. (See sections 3739 to 3742, inclusive, Revised Statutes of the United States.)

(Signed) .....
Owner.

(Signed) .....
Forester.

HOW TO MAKE APPLICATION.

Persons desiring assistance of the Forest Service under the provisions of this circular should fill out and return the application blank given below, or make application to the Forester of the Department of Agriculture, covering the points mentioned in that form. Upon request, printed blanks will be sent on which application can be made. Advice will then be given by correspondence and publications, or arrangements will be made with the owner for the examination of the land and a report on this examination will be made.

Form 704]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE.

APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION OF FOREST LANDS.

....., 190...
(Date.)

Name of owner.....

P. O. address .....

Location of tract .....
(Town.) (County.) (State.)

Area of tract..... acres.

Character of forest.....
(Species.)

Condition of forest.....
(Approximate per cent mature, second growth, burned over, cut over, etc.)

.....

Wishes of owner .....
(State the nature of the improvement desired on the tract and what scheme

.....
of management is planned for the future.)

.....

Additional information .....
(State here any information that may be of service to the agent of the Forest Service

.....
in making the examination of the tract, such as name of man who will accompany agent, etc.)

(Signed).....

GIFFORD PINCHOT,
Forester.

Approved:
JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 10, 1907.*

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